increase in production of oilseeds to 25.01 million tonnes. While efforts are being intensified to raise production and productivity of oilseeds, the gap between domestic production and consumption requirement will be met through imports of edible oils.

Fishing harbour at Malpe, Karnataka

1044. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had accorded approval for construction of the 2nd stage of the fishing harbour at Malpe, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Government intimated revised estimates of the project and sought Centre's approval for the same; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the present status with regard to release of its share towards the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government, in February 1996, had accorded approval to the proposal of Government of Karnataka for construction of Stage-II fishing harbour at Malpe at a total cost of Rs. 1196.70 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The entire Central share to the tune of 50% amounting to Rs. 598.35 lakhs has been released to the State Government by September, 1999.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has submitted Revised Cost proposal for construction of Malpe Stage-II fishing harbour with a cost escalation upwardly from Rs. 1196.70 lakhs to Rs. 2160 lakhs. The proposal received in this regard from the State Government *vide* their letter dated 29.6.2004 has been re-examined in light of the provisions of the CSS and the State Government has been requested to submit a detailed revised project report addressing relevant aspects for such cost escalation.

MSP for Paddy

1045. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started the process for fixing the minimum support price for paddy for 2004-05 by soliciting comments from the States

on the recommendation of the Commission of Agriculture Costs and Prices to freeze it at Rs. 550 a quintal;

(b) whether States have submitted their views on this issue;

(c) whether for the third year in succession, CACP has recommended a freeze to the MSP of paddy at Rs. 550 and Rs. 580 a quintal for the common and fine grades respectively;

(d) if so, whether Government have received views of the State Governments; and

(e) by when, a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As in the previous years, the Government of India have obtained the views of State Governments on the Report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) on Price Policy for kharif crops, including paddy, of 2004-05 season.

(c) to (e) For the 2003-04 season MSP was fixed at Rs. 550 per quintal for paddy common and at Rs. 580 per quintal for paddy Grade 'A' compared with Rs. 530 and Rs. 560 respectively for 2002-03 season. In view of severe drought, Government announced a one time Drought Relief Price of Rs. 20 per quintal over and above the MSP for paddy for 2002-03. The views obtained from State Governments are taken into account in the process of MSP fixation for 2004-05, which is now at a very advanced stage.

Task Force on application of bio-technology in agriculture

1046. SHRI R. P. GOENKA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 80 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether Government have accepted all the recommendation of the Task Force on application of bio-technology in agriculture; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement them?